

Master in Advanced European and International Studies

European Integration and Global Studies

Academic Year 2025/2026



ANNUAL REPORT



1 OVERVIEW

The 2025/2026 European Integration and Global Studies programme of CIFE's Master in Advanced European and International Studies (MAEIS) was composed of a diverse group of 24 students from 15 different nationalities. The itinerant programme offered students intensive courses in Berlin, Nice and either Rome or Istanbul over three terms extending from 15 October 2025 to 24 June 2026. Afterwards, students were given the option of continuing with an internship of 3 to 6 months. The following table represents the timetable of the programme:

Dates	Location
15/10/2025 – 19/12/2025	BERLIN Centre international de formation européenne (CIFE)
12/01/2026 – 27/03/2026	NICE Centre international de formation européenne (CIFE)
08/03/2026 – 13/03/2026	STUDY TRIP Strasbourg – Luxembourg – Brussels
03/04/2026 – 18/06/2026	ROME in cooperation with Luiss University
03/04/2026 – 24/06/2026	ISTANBUL in cooperation with Istanbul Bilgi University
29/05/2026	End of the Academic Year
18/06/2026	Graduation Ceremony in Rome
24/06/2026	Graduation Ceremony in Istanbul
Until 31/12/2026	Optional Internship

The programme focused on the role of the EU in a changing world. In a transversal way, the modules helped understand how the European integration process led the EU to become a global actor on the international scene.

The programme aimed to prepare students for professional life in a challenging context. The academic curriculum was designed in order to enable students to develop an overarching and all-encompassing understanding of internal and external EU policies, as well as how the EU interacts with other global actors in a multipolar world.

Following the leitmotif "Learning and Living Europe", the students rotated each term, moving their place of study from Berlin to Nice and then to Rome or Istanbul. During the third trimester, the programme concentrated on the EU and its relationship with Mediterranean and sub-Saharan countries, as well as EU relationships with Türkiye, Central Asian, Caucasus and Black Sea countries.

2 ORGANISATION OF THE PROGRAMME

THE MODULES

The curriculum was composed of five compulsory modules:

- A** Conflict and Cooperation in the International System
- B** European Integration and External Action
- C** Federalism and Multi-Level Governance
- D** Economic Globalisation and Sustainable Development
- E** Professional Skills Workshops

University teachers from across Europe, as well as experts from international and European organisations and researchers from our partner institutes contributed to our programme.

Various teaching methods and course formats were applied within each module.

A Conflict and Cooperation in the International System (129 hours)

Module Director: George TZOGOPOULOS

BESA Research Associate, Lecturer at the Democritus University of Thrace, Director of EU-China Programmes and Senior Research Fellow at CIFE

This module offered students a unique learning environment with its highly interdisciplinary approach that combined traditional international relations approaches with courses on conflict management and resolution. First, there was an introduction to international relations from a theoretical and an empirical perspective. Subsequently, the courses dealt with different perspectives on conflict management and resolution, such as for example the political scientist's view or a more sociological approach. Students also became acquainted with the history of conflicts in international relations with a regional focus on conflicts in the Middle East and the Balkans. Furthermore, students analysed some international regimes and successful interstate cooperation in order to develop a comprehensive understanding about how coexistence, cooperation and tolerance can play an important role in society.

TRIMESTER 1: BERLIN (24 hours)

George TZOGOPOULOS

- Introduction to the Module
- Conflict and Cooperation in the International System: Main Principles and Theories
- The UN and the International System
- From Classical to Hybrid Warfare
- Presentations on UNSC Reform
- New Types of Warfare
- The US, China and the International System

TRIMESTER 2: NICE (36 hours)

George TZOGOPOULOS

- The War in Iran and the New World Order
- Geopolitics and Sino-American Competition

François BAFOIL *Former CNRS Senior Research Fellow, CERI Sciences Po Paris*

- Populism: Between Authoritarianism and Liberalism

Anna DIMITROVA *Lecturer and Researcher in International Affairs, ESSCA École de Management, Paris*

- Foreign Policy Analysis: Factors and Actors
- Continuity and Change in US Foreign Policy after 9/11
- Challenges of Trump's 'America First' Foreign Policy for the International Order

Matthias WAECHTER *Director General of CIFE*

- The Rise and Fall of European Imperialism in the 19th and 20th Centuries

TRIMESTER 3: ROME (24 hours)

George TZOGOPOULOS

- The Ukrainian War
- The Ukrainian Crisis
- The Palestinian Question
- Energy Developments in the Eastern Mediterranean
- The Greek Economic Crisis

TRIMESTER 3: ISTANBUL (45 hours)

Mitat ÇELIKPALA *Academics/Professor of International Relations, University of Kadir Has, Istanbul*

- The Black Sea: History, Security, Challenges and Opportunities
- The Caucasus: History, Security, Challenges and Opportunities

Emre ERŞEN *Associate Professor at Marmara University, Istanbul*

- The Crisis in Ukraine: Root Causes
- The Crisis in Ukraine: Regional and Global Implications
- Central Asia: Understanding the Region
- Central Asia: Geopolitical Rivalry

Gencer ÖZCAN *Professor, Faculty Member at Istanbul Bilgi University*

- The Modern Middle East and the Arab Uprisings
- The Crisis in Syria, the Salafists, IS and Others
- The Abraham Accords and the War in Gaza





B European Integration and External Action (141 hours)

Module Directors:

Kai OPPERMANN Professor of International Politics, University of Technology, Chemnitz

The process of European integration was launched in the 1950s with the promise of achieving an “ever closer union” between European states. Since then, important achievements like the single market, the common currency and open borders between the member states have been accomplished. However, a deep feeling of crisis is dominating the member states, with citizens feeling alienated from the European institutions and putting the blame for domestic problems on the EU.

The module explored the challenges that the European Union is currently facing, by first tracing its evolution from the origins until today and then proposing perspectives for its future development. A special focus was on the role of the European Union in international politics. Since the accession of 13 new countries, it is no longer a community limited to Western Europe, but a union reaching from the Atlantic to the Black Sea. By the same token, its neighbourhood has extended to countries reaching from Russia over the Southern Caucasus to the Maghreb. Furthermore, the Lisbon Treaty has provided the European Union with institutions which should ensure the efficiency of its foreign and security policy.

The module examined the challenges remaining in order to achieve coherence among 27 member states with different geopolitical priorities, historical experiences and national preferences. The enlargement policy of the EU, its approach to its neighbourhood, its role in international trade, as well as in climate change policies, was analysed.

TRIMESTER 1: BERLIN (72 hours)

Daniela HEIMPEL Lecturer and Researcher, European University Institute, Florence

- The EU Institutions and Decision-Making
- Internal EU Policies

Susann HEINECKE-KUHN Director of the MAEIS Applied European Policy and Governance Studies

- The EU’s Largest Neighbourhood: Russia and the Post-Soviet Space

Anna-Katharina HÜBERS Research Assistant, University of Leipzig

- European Law

Hartmut MARHOLD Senior Research Fellow at CIFE

- Introduction to the History of European Integration

TRIMESTER 2: NICE (18 hours)

Kai OPPERMANN

- EU Foreign and Security Policy: EU Actorness in International Affairs

Federica INFANTINO Lecturer and Researcher at URMIS, University Nice Côte d’Azur

- EU Migration Policy

TRIMESTER 3: ROME (36 hours)

Kai OPPERMANN

- EU Foreign and Security Policy: Case Studies and Student Presentations

Maurizio CARBONE Professor at the University of Glasgow

- The European Union and Africa: From the Treaty of Rome to the Global Gateway

Fabrizio LOBASSO Diplomat, Deputy Director General for the Economic Internalisation and Promotion of Italy

- Europe and Africa: Strategic Partnership, Intercultural Approach

Marco MASSONI ‘African Politics and Society’ Adjunct Faculty – Department of Political Sciences, Luiss University

- South-South Cooperation: The African Union’s New Priorities in Relation to the G20 and BRICS

Harrison Kalunga MWILIMA Lecturer, Consultant and Journalist

- EU-Africa Relations: An African Perspective

TRIMESTER 3: ISTANBUL (15 hours)

Kai OPPERMANN

- EU Foreign and Security Policy: Case Studies and Student Presentations

Özge ONURSAL-BESGUL Associate Professor of European Studies, Faculty Member of Istanbul Bilgi University, Department of International Relations, Director of the European Institute

- 100 Years of the Turkish Republic: Changes and Continuities
- EU-Türkiye Relations
- Türkiye in the World: Foreign Policy Beyond the EU



C Federalism and Multi-Level Governance (66 hours)

Module Director: Frédéric LÉPINE *Deputy Director General of CIFE*

For the last fifteen years, federalism has seen a revival as an international field of studies. In this framework, three major developments can be considered.

The first is the study of the European Union, no longer analysed as a process of integration, but in terms of a federal institutional comparative approach.

The second development is multi-level governance, which can be conceived as an extension of federalism as it deals with any form of multi-tier institutional system. This cooperative / competitive approach has appeared to understand the institutional consequences of the process of globalisation in post-industrialised societies and the subsequent changing nature of sovereignty in the relevant states.

Finally, federalism has become a tool of conflict resolution to resolve violent conflicts all over the world. Examples include Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ethiopia, Iraq and Nepal. It is also perceived as a solution for Syria, Cyprus, Ukraine and Libya, among others. In addition, new federal discourses have emerged in historically centralised countries.

It appears that all these developments share a common multi-tier conceptual framework, referred to as federalism. As such, they add themselves to older federal questions, such as political cooperation, democratic representation, minority issues and economic coordination. However, understanding the contemporary evolution of the federal meaning and its main uses requires innovative analytical thinking. This module brought together these new approaches and highlighted the changing nature of federalism in an ever more complex world.



Study Trip to the EIB, Luxembourg, with the students of the MAEIS Applied European Policy and Governance Studies

TRIMESTER 1: BERLIN (27 hours)

Frédéric LÉPINE

- Introduction to a General Theory of Federalism

Sören KEIL *Senior Teaching and Research Fellow, University of Passau*

- Introduction to Federalism and Federation
- Federal Traditions
- Contemporary Federal Debates in the Post-Cold War Era
- Contemporary Federations in the Global South

TRIMESTER 2: NICE (39 hours)

Frédéric LÉPINE

- Compared Modern Structures of Political Institutions
- Principles of Federalism
- Federalism and Personalism at the Origins of CIFE

Elisabeth ALBER *Research Group Leader at the EURAC Research Institute for Comparative Federalism and Lecturer at the University of Innsbruck*

- Federalism and Ethnic Relations
- Simulation Game: Let's Go Federal!
- Federalism and Democratic Innovations

Sören KEIL

- New Federal Systems in the Post-Cold War Era: Bosnia and Herzegovina and Iraq in Comparison
- Federal Discussions in the 21st century: Syria in a Comparative Perspective
- Simulation Exercise: Utopia



Study Trip to Strasbourg, European Parliament



Study Trip to Brussels, European External Action Service

D Economic Globalisation and Sustainable Development (96 hours)

Module Director: Laurent **BAECHLER** *Director of the MAEIS European Integration and Global Studies*

The main goal of this module was to shed light on the key forces shaping economic globalisation processes in their various dimensions: international trade, financial markets, currency issues, etc. Without going into the details of economic theory, the module helped students understand the contribution of these fundamental driving forces to long-term economic development as well as major economic crises. Beyond a broad overview of the current state of the world economy, the objective was to understand how globalisation refers to the problem of international economic governance and to describe the institutions, actors and processes at work when it comes to cooperation challenges, in order to solve economic public goods management problems such as trade dynamism, financial stability or monetary cooperation.

The module put a specific focus on the role of the EU as an economic actor on the global stage, with its opportunities and challenges driven both by European specific evolutions and globalisation trends.

Finally, the module proposed an introduction to global sustainable development issues (climate change, access to water, etc.), as they are among the most decisive challenges that will shape the future of the world economy.

TRIMESTER 1: BERLIN (36 hours)

Laurent BAECHLER

- Introduction to International Economics
- Overview of the World Economy
- Emerging Economies
- How to Write a Master Thesis
- The World Economy in the Long Run
- Economic Globalisation
- The International Monetary System
- The International Financial System

Jacques LE CACHEUX *Professor of Economics, Paris*

- EU International Trade
- The EU in Today's World Economy and Trade
- European Trade in History
- Determinants of Trade: Comparative Advantage, Scale Economies and Variety
- The End of Globalisation? The Geopolitical Economy of International Trade

TRIMESTER 2: NICE (30 hours)

Laurent BAECHLER

- Debt Crisis
- Unemployment Policies
- Income Inequalities in the World
- Demographic Issues
- Sustainable Development: Concepts and Challenges

Jacques LE CACHEUX

- Economics of the European Union: Single Market and Competition Policies
- Economics of the European Union: External Trade Policy
- The ECB and Monetary Policy
- Economics of the European Union: European Public Finance

TRIMESTER 3: ROME (15 hours)

Laurent BAECHLER

- Climate Change Stakes
- Climate Change Interactions
- Energy Issues
- Water Issues
- Oral Presentations

TRIMESTER 3: ISTANBUL (15 hours)

Laurent BAECHLER

- Climate Change Stakes
- Climate Change Interactions
- Energy Issues
- Water Issues
- Oral Presentations



Istanbul, with the students of the MAEIS Mediterranean Studies

E Professional Skills Workshops (60 hours)

In an increasingly globalised world, governments and the private sector are asked to provide more services with less. Moreover, the movement of peoples across borders has created challenges for an increasingly multicultural world. By default, there is more competition for resources, goals and interests at local, state and regional levels.

In order to be credible, governments, business organisations and individuals must be able to deal with new challenges professionally and efficiently and maximise the potential of any given situation. If we want to have an impact and participate in the development of certain policies, we also need to open ourselves to consensus building, conflict management and negotiations.

In this module, we sought to develop an understanding of cooperation in political processes and various approaches in support of dialogue, negotiation and conflict management. During the workshops, students acquired skills in Project Cycle Management, Intercultural Communication, Negotiation and the tracking and analysis of EU law proposals. We prepared our students at the crossroads of theory and practice for a professional life in challenging times.

TRIMESTER 1: BERLIN (27 hours)

Paul CULLEY *EU Policy Advisor, Tutor and Trainer*

- Practical Skills for Policy Officers

Gerald KNAUS *Writer and Founding Chairman of the European Stability Initiative (ESI)*

- Counting Things and Telling Stories: How to Research, Write and Talk

Mark YOUNG *Negotiation Trainer, President of Rational Games, Inc.*

- Negotiation Workshop

TRIMESTER 2: NICE (33 hours)

Paul CULLEY

- Practical Skills for Policy Officers

Volkan ERKAN *Engineer*

- Introduction to Project Cycle Management
- Project Design: The Logical Framework Approach (LFA)
- LFA Analyses (Problem, Stakeholder, Goal and Strategy Analysis)
- Developing Log-Frame Matrix
- Developing Activity / Resource Schedules and Implementation
- Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation of Projects

Nina FRAUENFELD *Executive Director, SuccessAcross*

- Cross-Cultural Communication



Study Trip to the ECHR, Strasbourg, with the students of the MAEIS Applied European Policy and Governance Studies

3 INTERMODULAR COURSES

Inaugural Lecture

- Inaugural Lecture: How to Turn Fear into Hope by **Herman VAN ROMPUY** *President of CIFE, President Emeritus of the European Council and Former Prime Minister of Belgium*

4 STUDY TRIP

The annual study trip with the students of the Master in Advanced European and International Studies – Applied European Policy and Governance Studies to the European and international organisations took place in Strasbourg, Luxembourg and Brussels from 9 to 13 March 2026. The following discussions and debates were held:

STRASBOURG

EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

- Presentation on the Role and Work of the Court

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

- Briefing on the New Democratic Pact for Europe
Tatiana MONNEY *Policy Advisor, New Democratic Pact for Europe, DG II Democracy and Human Dignity*
- Visit to the Hemicycle of the Parliamentary Assembly

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- Presentation on the Values, Roles and Functioning of the Legislative Process of the European Parliament
- Visit to the Hemicycle during the Plenary Session



Festive Gathering, Berlin



Study Trip to the ESM, Luxembourg, with the students of the MAEIS Applied European Policy and Governance Studies

LUXEMBOURG

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

- Presentation on the Roles and Activities of the EIB
Chris KNIGHT Communications Officer

EUROPEAN STABILITY MECHANISM

- Presentation on the Roles and Activities of the ESM
- Information on Career Prospects and Recruiting at the ESM

BRUSSELS

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED POWERS EUROPE (SHAPE) / NATO

- Presentation on the History, Evolution, Structure and Missions of SHAPE
Cindy BOUVIEZ Staff Officer, Engagement, Outreach and Internal Communications Section
- SHAPE Transformation into a Warfighting Headquarter

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

- The Role and Political Priorities of the European External Action Service, the EU's Diplomatic Service and the Role of the EUSR for the Gulf
Florin NITA Chief of Staff of the EU Representative for the Gulf, CIFE Alumnus
- External EU Migration Policy
Charles CHAPOUILLY Team Leader Southern Neighbourhood and Multilateral Issues, Migration and Human Security Division

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

- Shaping Europe's Future: The European Commission at Work
Christian AAGAARD Programme Assistant, Prevention and Preparedness Capacity Building
- The Work in the Legal Service of the European Commission
Gilles GANTELET Resources and Performance Management, Legal Service, CIFE Alumnus

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- The European Council and the Council of the EU
Georg KLEIN Political Administrator, General Secretariat of the Council of the EU

5 OTHER VISITS

BERLIN

- Guided Tour "In the Footsteps of Divided Berlin" on 27 October 2025
with **Ruth PORSTMANN** Project Manager at polyspektiv
- Guided Tour of the Reichstag Building and Visit to the Dome on 15 December 2025

NICE

- Guided Walking Tour of Nice with **Nathalie BRICOUT** on 16 January 2026

ROME

- Visit to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) on 9 April 2026



Guided Tour of Nice



Visit to the FAO, Rome



Guided Tour of Berlin



Study Trip to Brussels, Council of the EU

6 MASTER THESIS RESEARCH TOPICS

Iris BAKHTIARI (Netherlands)

Between Regional Custodian and Indispensable Ally: Türkiye's Foreign Policy Narratives and NATO Conduct under the AKP, 2002–2025

Thesis Supervisor: George TZOGOPOULOS

Eva BAZEN (Netherlands)

Femonationalism in the European Parliament: Navigating between Free Speech and Hate Speech

Thesis Supervisor: Matthias WAECHTER

Kate EZARD (United Kingdom)

China's Arctic Ambitions: How Are European Actors Responding, and What Factors Shape the Capacity for UK-EU Cooperation after Brexit?

Thesis Supervisor: George TZOGOPOULOS

Donato FINELLI (Netherlands)

What Kind of Britain? British National Identity and the First Application Debates on EEC Membership, 1961–1963

Thesis Supervisor: Matthias WAECHTER

Catrien FUCHS (Netherlands)

Child Soldiers: Explaining a Phenomenon and Reflecting on Countermeasures. A Case Study on Uganda (1986–2006)

Thesis Supervisor: Dagmar RÖTTSCHESS-DUBOIS

Irene GALLEGRO TORRES (Spain)

From Commitment to Practice: Implementation Gaps in First-Generation WPS National Action Plans as Responses to GBV and CRSV in Uganda and Rwanda

Thesis Supervisor: Dagmar RÖTTSCHESS-DUBOIS

Sara GEORGE (Austria)

Governing State Fragility in the International System: Human Rights Protection, United Nations Accountability and Migration Challenges. The Case of Afghanistan

Thesis Supervisor: George TZOGOPOULOS

Anahit GRIGORYAN (Armenia)

Europeanisation of Armenia without Accession to the EU

Thesis Supervisor: Kai OPPERMANN

Vasil KRUGLII (Bulgaria)

Assessing the Limits and Contradictions of Bulgaria's Pre and Post-Accession Europeanisation

Thesis Supervisor: Anna DIMITROVA

Iliana MARKAKI (Greece)

Beyond Legislative Competence: How the European Parliament Set the Agenda for Safe Abortion Through 'My Voice, My Choice'

Thesis Supervisor: Dagmar RÖTTSCHESS-DUBOIS



Maria MEDINA MARTIN (Spain)

European Social Models and the Labour Market Integration of Migrant Women: A Comparative Analysis

Thesis Supervisor: Laurent BAECHLER

Sterre MOOLENBURGH (Netherlands)

Between Ambition and Capacity: The European Union's Legal and Institutional Capacity to Counter Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference

Thesis Supervisor: Matthias WAECHTER

Olivier REINOUD (Netherlands)

Strategic but Dependent: What Japan's Rare-Earth Strategy Teaches the European Union

Thesis Supervisor: Laurent BAECHLER

Alexandra-Maria SIMA (Romania)

The Ghost Manifesto: The Nostalgia-Amnesia Nexus and Romania's Unfinished Return to Europe

Thesis Supervisor: Matthias WAECHTER

Leïla SONEGO (Belgium)

The European Union's Response to October 7

Thesis Supervisor: George TZOGOPOULOS

Filippo SORAPERRA (Austria / Italy)

Early Reactions to the EU CBAM: Vietnam and Indonesia

Thesis Supervisor: Laurent BAECHLER

Chiara Bastiani STORM (Denmark)

Approaching the Unknown: Denmark, Drones and UAP

Thesis Supervisor: George TZOGOPOULOS

William TAMENNE HATANAKA (Belgium / Japan)

From Trade to Security: The Evolution of EU-Japan Relations

Thesis Supervisor: Kai OPPERMANN

Fuyao TAO (China)

Managing an Uncertain Ally: EU Strategic Adaptation towards the United States under the Trump Administration. A Management Science Perspective on Strategic Uncertainty in EU-US Relations

Thesis Supervisor: George TZOGOPOULOS

Nieke VAN GINKEL (Netherlands)

Between Norms and Borders: The Tensions between Normative Commitments and Instrumental Priorities in EU Migration Externalisation in the Cases of Tunisia and Egypt

Thesis Supervisor: Kai OPPERMANN

Alexander VON DER BRÜGGEN (Germany)

Germany's Vergangenheitsbewältigung and the Right Wing's Revisionist Narrative: The Case of the AfD

Thesis Supervisor: Matthias WAECHTER

Timon VREVEN (Belgium)

EU Energy Policy from 2014 until 2025 and the Potential Role of Central Asian States: An Analysis of the Drivers and Constraints of EU Engagement with Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan on Energy Matters

Thesis Supervisor: Mitat ÇELIKPALA

Charlotte WIDDOWSON (United Kingdom)

From Empire to Isolation: The Legacy of Imperial Identity in Post-Brexit Britain and Its Impact on Foreign Policy

Thesis Supervisor: Kai OPPERMANN

Iuliana ZLOTESCO (Moldova / Romania)

How Romania Helped Moldova in Its Political and Economic Development Since 1989

Thesis Supervisor: Frédéric LÉPINE





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